

HERITAGE AREA BULLETIN BOARD OCTOBER 2003

The October Bulletin Board is running a little late this month to capture all of the legislative action that has occurred in the last four weeks. This is also the season of conferences and workshops. The big upcoming event is the **Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship Conference** in Los Angeles November 18-20. Heritage areas and heritage area practices will be well represented with 18 sessions directly on the topic. If you come, make sure you seek out the Alliance of National Heritage Areas booth in the exhibit hall. Information will be available on the Alliance, the National Heritage Areas and the time and place of the related conference sessions.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The month began with a House Resources Subcommittee mark-up on October 16 at which the National Park Service testified on the Department of Interior's new position on national heritage area bills. The core of the Department's testimony is attached below, but it begins with the statement that "The Department supports the national heritage program, but recommends that the Subcommittee defer action on any individual national heritage area designation or study until generic national heritage area legislation is enacted." The testimony states that heritage areas are a cost effective and locally driven way to preserve nationally important resources. It also goes on to say that a legislative framework is needed to ensure the quality of the program and outlines the key components of such legislation.

The Subcommittee then went on to mark up five national heritage area bills after adding additional "property rights" language to each of the proposals. Action was taken on H.R. 280 (Hobson OH) To establish the National Aviation Heritage Area, H.R. 1594 (Christensen VI) To direct the Secretary to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the St. Croix National Heritage Area, United States Virgin Islands, H.R. 1618 (Majette GA) To establish the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, H.R. 1862 (Peterson PA) Oil Region National Heritage Area Act and H.R. 1798 (Johnson CN) to establish the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in Connecticut and Massachusetts. There was also discussion on H.R. 1964 (Frelinghuysen NJ) to establish the Highlands Stewardship Area in the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. This bill would authorize the Department of Agriculture and Interior to provide financial and technical assistance for land conservation partnership initiatives and was seen by some committee members as being a heritage area-like bill.

On October 31 the full House Resources Committee marked up the above bills with amendments that further revised the private property rights language and in the case of the H.R. 1964 the Highlands bill reduced funding from \$25 to \$10 million a year. Action on H.R. 1798, the Upper Housatonic Valley, was deferred awaiting receipt of a final report from the Department of Interior. A full committee mark up of that bill is now scheduled for November 5, 2003.

Also scheduled for the mark up on November 5 is H.R. 521 (Doyle PA) To establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site located in the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area. A companion bill has been introduced in the Senate S. 1787 (Specter PA).



Departmental Testimony 10.03.c

The FY 2004 Interior appropriations bill was acted on by the Conference Committee, passed the House last week and is scheduled for a Senate vote on November 4. The appropriation bill designates the first new national heritage area since 2000, the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area in North Carolina. The bill also directs a study of the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area in Alabama.

Funding for national heritage areas has been appropriated and the allocations are detailed in the chart below.

Heritage Partnership Programs FY2004 Conference Allowance w/ .646% Reduction

	FY2004 Allowance Conference	FY2004 w/ .646% Reduction
Heritage Partnership Programs		
Commissions and Grants		
America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership (Silos and Smokestacks)	750	745
Augusta Canal National Heritage Area.	400	397
Automobile National Heritage Area	600	596
Blue Ridge National Heritage Area	500	497
Cache La Poudre River Corridor	45	45
Cane River National Heritage Area	800	795
Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor	800	795
Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor	600	596
Essex National Heritage Area	1,000	994
Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.	550	546
Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor	600	596
John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor	795	790
Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area.	550	546
National Coal Heritage Area	123	122
Ohio and Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor	1,000	994
Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor	800	795
Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area	1,000	994
Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area	497	494
Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District	500	497
South Carolina National Heritage Corridor	1,000	994
Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area	209	208
Wheeling National Heritage Area	1,000	994
Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area	210	209
Administrative Support	124	123
Total, Heritage Partnership Programs (Activity)	14,453	14,359

In conclusion it was a very busy month. The scorecard now stands at 1 new national heritage area; 5 bills cleared for action on the House floor; 19 waiting in the wings and as we go to press a new bill has been introduced H.R. 3257 (Ryan OH) To establish the Western Reserve Heritage Area.

PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE ON-LINE

The Alliance of National Heritage Areas – with the help of many enthusiastic partners – sponsored the First International Heritage Development Conference June 7-11, 2003, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Materials from the conference are now available on the Alliance's Website. <http://www.nationalheritageareas.com/ihdc/>

HERITAGE TOURISM UPDATE

The Sunday New York Times Travel Section is always a good place to spot trends in the travel industry. The October 5 column titled the "Practical Traveler" focused on sources of information for heritage tourism. It plugs the National Register of Historic Places "Discover our Shared

Heritage Travel Itinerary Series" as a collection of regional tours designed in cooperation with communities and heritage areas. (emphasis added) The Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor was specifically mentioned. Hmmm....

MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS REPORT AVAILABLE

A recent report titled "Investing in Our Communities: Maryland's Heritage Area Program" has been issued at the request of Maryland Department of Legislative Service. It examines past performance and future direction of the Maryland Heritage Area program, concluding that the program both preserves heritage resource and provides a foundation for economic development in older communities. The principal author was Rodney Harrell, a Governor's Policy Fellow within the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, assisted by the Office of Tourism Development in the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, and each of the 12 recognized heritage areas.



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ON THE ROAD

The fall has been a busy travel season with a recent visit to the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area hosted by Superintendent Sara Olson at Hyde Park. Next is a session at the Chesapeake Gateways Conference in Annapolis, MD, a panel discussion at the University of Vermont, and of course the Joint Ventures Conference in Los Angeles. I hope to see many of you at these events.